

Deuteronomy 33:1 - Thursday, January 26th, 2012

(1) Now this *is* the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.

- I suppose in all fairness I could be accused of wanting to savor the flavor of Deuteronomy, as we're only two chapters away from its completion.
- If you were to ask me what the main reason for wanting to do this was, I'd have to answer that it's because of my profound fondness for Moses.
- Actually, it's here just in verse one that this is affirmed infinitely more so when we read how that this "man of God," blessed the children of Israel.

- Here's what I'm thinking, not only is Moses forbidden entrance into the Promised-Land, but he's about to die and be gathered to his brethren.
- I find it most interesting that, in his very last moments on earth, we find this "man of God" ever so humbly and selflessly blessing the Israelites.
- The reason this is so stunning to me, is that given the circumstances that led up to this moment, Moses is neither angry nor full of resentment.

- You'd think that after all he had to put up with over the last forty years, only to be told "no" he could not enter the Promised-Land, he'd be bitter.
- Yet, instead of any bitterness, we find only meekness, in that he's not disenchanted with God, nor is he resentful towards the Children of Israel.
- I would suggest that it's for this reason that Moses is referred to as a "man of God," or, if you prefer, a godly man as evidenced by this chapter.

- This begs the question of how it is that we see Moses responding in such a godly way instead of seeing him reacting in such an ungodly way.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for bit as I seek to identify a number of reasons that may hopefully answer the question of; what makes a man of God.
- In other words, what are the characteristics, like those, which Moses possesses, that makes us and shapes us into that man, or woman, of God.

- Please know that what follows is in no way exhaustive, in the sense that I've narrowed down what are many more to only four characteristics.
- While one could preach an entire series of sermons on the topic of godly characteristics I have chosen in the interest of time to abbreviate them.
- If this is an area of interest to you, you may wish to study this on your own because the scriptures are replete with both principles and examples.

- Be that as it may and suffice it to say, the first characteristic we see in Moses being a man of God is that he's not devastated by "blocked goals."
- One of the chief reasons we become angry is because something we really want is thwarted, and if left unchecked it will give way to resentment.
- We see none of that with Moses, even after he had the ultimate goal of the Promised-Land blocked, and his desire to enter the land thwarted.

- This brings us to the second characteristic that we see in Moses being a man of God; he doesn't see being told "no" as a violation of his rights.
- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that true servants are keenly aware that they, as slaves, have no rights.
- Rather, they have responsibilities instead of rights. This mindset, as prevalent as it is today comes packaged with this attitude of; "I am entitled."

- The third characteristic that we see in Moses being a man of God is that he doesn't turn an unmet expectation, into an ungodly retaliation.
- I can't get over how Moses is able to remain faithful and thankful to God while at the same time being gracious and courteous to the Israelites.
- If you think about it, Moses could have retaliated by cursing them instead of blessing them and in so doing sort of getting back at them and God.

- The fourth and final characteristic that we see in Moses being a man of God is that he doesn't perceive what's happened to him as being unfair.
- This is huge because without a proper perspective, he would have taken this very personally, and thus it would have been a blow to his ego.
- The reason that it wasn't is because Moses doesn't have an ego, which explains why his pride wasn't hurt, he possessed no pride to be hurt.